



**AGENDA  
TOWN OF JUPITER  
ENVIRONMENTAL TASKFORCE MEETING  
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024  
6:00 PM**

**Call To Order**

**ROLL CALL**

Chair Willie Puz (At Large)  
Vice-Chair Christina Akly  
Ms. Anne Shoffner  
Ms. Christa Cherry  
Ms. Jill Watson  
Ms. Elizabeth Summers  
Ms. Emily O'Mahoney (At Large)  
Mr. Paul Kabalin (Alternate)

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

All Non-agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak is asked to go to the podium and state his/her name and address for the record. **The Task Force will not discuss these items this evening.**

**MINUTES**

1. Approval of the July 22, 2024 ETF Meeting Minutes

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

2. Jonathan Dickinson State Park - Letter from Town Council
3. NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant - Letter of Support
4. Centennial Natural Environment Committee Workshop - discussion of ETF member event participation and engagement
5. Vulnerability Assessment Update

**TASK FORCE MEMBER COMMENTS**

**STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting December 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room



**MINUTES  
TOWN OF JUPITER  
ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (ETF)  
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM  
July 22, 2024  
6:00 PM**

Chair Puz called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Chair Willie Puz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member Beth Summers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice- Chair Christina Akly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member Paul Kabalin (Alt)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Christa Cherry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member Jill Watson (Alt)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Member Emily O'Mahoney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Anne Shoffner	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Staff Liaisons: Barrett Cruce, Natural Resources Supervisor  
Ashley Reeves, Natural Resources Coordinator

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

All non-agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak is asked to go to the podium and state his/her name and address for the record. **The Task Force will not discuss these items this evening.**

**MINUTES**

Approval of the May 20, 2024 ETF Meeting Minutes [\[Attachment 1\]](#)

Motion to approve made by member Jill Watson and a seconded by Task Force Member Christina Akly. Minutes were approved by a 4-0 vote.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

1. Town of Jupiter Open Space Program – [Description of Open Space Program](#) and [Management Strategies](#)

**Staff provided an overall update of the Town's Open Space Program, including the Town's history of the Loxahatchee River. Staff introduced Vice Mayor Sundstrom who was in attendance.**

**Vice Mayor Sundstrom spoke about the approval process for Abacoa and the history of Town's open space and green space projects. She offered to set up time to speak with members of the Task Force at any time if they had additional questions.**

2. [Glyphosate Use Reduction](#) Update

**Staff provided a status on the glyphosate resolution that was brought to the Town Council. Staff discussed the purpose of the resolution and the overall goal.**

**Member Akly asked if herbicides and pesticides are currently being used in the Town in wetland areas. Staff confirmed herbicides and pesticides are not being used in these areas.**

**Chair Puz asked if the soil in areas where glyphosate is used are tested throughout the years to see changes? Staff was unsure and advised that they would get back to the committee with an answer.**

3. Centennial Natural Environment Committee Update – discussion of ETF member event participation and engagement.

**Staff advised at the next ETF meeting that a workshop will be held with the Centennial Natural Environment Committee and the ETF to get input for the Town’s Centennial Celebration. Staff will provide a list of the ideas that have been discussed to be included for the committee’s involvement.**

4. Task Force Member comments

**Member Jill Watson expressed her gratitude for staff’s hard work and thanked Vice-Mayor Sundstrom for attending the meeting.**

**Member Christa Cherry expressed her gratitude for the update on the open space and it was nice having the Vice Mayor present.**

**Vice Chair Christina Akly also expressed her gratitude for the work staff has been doing.**

**Chair Puz would like to have an update on the items this task force has acted on, including any accomplishments that have come from the group. Staff advised that they would go through and check everything to get a list of items to provide updates back to the Task Force. Chair Puz reminded the Task Force how important attendance is to the meetings so that they can provide valuable input to Staff that will be relayed to the Town Council.**

5. Staff comments

**Staff advised the committee that the sustainability plan will be going to the Town Council as a roundtable in the first quarter of 2025. Staff will notify the Task Force when a date has been set.**

**Vice Mayor expressed her gratitude for the plan that was provided and advised that there is a lot of information. She appreciated the prioritization that was included.**

6. Next meeting October 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room

**ADJOURNMENT**



August 22, 2024

**JIM KURETSKI**  
MAYOR

Chuck Hatcher, Director of Florida State Parks  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**MALISE SUNDSTROM**  
VICE MAYOR

Dear Mr. Hatcher:

On behalf of many residents of Jupiter, we are writing to voice our strong opposition to the proposed public golf course development on State-owned land at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. We believe this development will harm the existing natural areas, watersheds, wildlife, historical features, and the nearby Loxahatchee River. All of these effects will be detrimental to nearby communities, including Jupiter.

**RON DELANEY**  
COUNCILOR

**ANDY FORE**  
COUNCILOR

The Town of Jupiter and FDEP have worked closely over the years on environmental stewardship and sustainability. We, as well as the residents of Jupiter, feel that preserving this land in its natural state is in the best interest of our community and our region. We also feel this preservation aligns with the State of Florida's goals to protect and conserve its natural resources.

**CAMERON MAY**  
COUNCILOR

The land at Jonathan Dickinson State Park is comprised of an ecological habitat with unique and rare natural features. The park is located within the Loxahatchee River Basin and protects many historical features, such as the Trapper Nelson Zoo Historic District, the World War II remnants of Camp Murphy, and numerous prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.

**FRANK KITZEROW**  
TOWN MANAGER

Developing a golf course on this land would lead to many undesirable outcomes, including:

- **Detrimental Effects on the Loxahatchee River:** The park is built astride two sloughs that come together to form the Loxahatchee River North Fork. Golf courses require a large amount of water for irrigation and often rely on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to maintain the grounds. Even if the State's Best Management

Practices are followed, run-off from the golf course could negatively impact one of only two National Wild and Scenic Rivers in Florida.

- **Loss of Habitat:** The construction and maintenance of a golf course can be very destructive to the habitats of natural plants and animal species. These facilities involve extensive clearing of native vegetation, and the potential effect on the protected and endangered species in the area is very concerning.
- **Community Impacts:** The park, in its current iteration, already offers a wide variety of recreational experiences, including hiking, picnicking, biking, boating, and horseback riding. A golf course will limit this access and reduce opportunities for residents to engage with the park's beauty.
- **Historical Features:** It is vital to protect and preserve the many historically significant sites and landmarks located within the park. This protection will preserve the local region's heritage for future generations.

We urge the State to reject the proposed golf course development and to preserve Jonathan Dickinson State Park's natural environment and beauty. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Jim Kuretski  
Mayor



Malise Sundstrom  
Vice Mayor



Ron Delaney  
Councilor



Andy Fore  
Councilor



Cameron May  
Councilor

cc: The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis  
Senator Gayle Harrell  
Representative John Snyder  
Frank J. Kitzerow, Town Manager



Stephanie A. Thoburn, Asst. Dir. of Planning and Zoning  
Town of Jupiter  
210 Military Trail  
Jupiter, Florida 33458

21 October 2024

To whom it may concern,

As the Chair of the Town of Jupiter Environmental Task Force, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Town of Jupiter's Sawfish Bay Marine Restoration grant application, submitted to the NOAA's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, offered by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Commerce.

The Town of Jupiter established the Environmental Task Force to provide the Town Council with expert input and guidance related to the Town's environmentally-focused initiatives. The Sawfish Bay Marine Restoration project directly aligns with the Town's strategic priorities to enhance and protect seagrass areas within the Town's waterways and to improve water quality in the Loxahatchee River. The project also aims to improve access to the Town's natural areas through new fishing platforms and increased public outreach regarding responsible fishing practices. The project is located at the intersection of the Loxahatchee River, Intracoastal Waterway, and the Jupiter Inlet, aims to transform a large area of sparse marine habitat into a thriving marine ecosystem. The restoration project will revert Sawfish Bay back towards the original natural system, which was once teeming with marine life from large oyster beds to the namesake of the bay and park, the Smalltooth Sawfish. The restoration of Sawfish Bay also aims to improve the resilience of three nearby islands and increase the resilience of the coastline at Sawfish Bay Park, which in turn will help protect important historic and cultural assets within the park, and provide increased opportunities for ecotourism activities. Approximately 6,000 linear feet of shoreline will be enhanced, affecting nearly thirty acres of adjacent marine habitat that can support a wide variety of marine wildlife.

The restoration of marine habitat in Sawfish Bay will enhance its contribution to the state-designated Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve. Aside from the many environmental improvements, this is also a collaborative project involving a number of partner organizations, such as the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the non-profit Jupiter Inlet Foundation, and the Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy at Jupiter High School. In collaboration with these entities, the Town will implement public education and outreach activities to engage and educate the greater community about the importance of nature-based solutions to address issues such as coastal and climate resiliency.

This transformational project will improve the quality of life in and along the water for both human and wildlife residents and visitors. I fully support this application to enhance the marine habitat within the Town, which will greatly contribute to the greater Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve, and sincerely hope the application is met with your approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Willie Puz  
Chair of the Environmental Task Force  
Town of Jupiter